

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/784,352

Examiner

Chongshan Chen

Applicant(s)

HEUER, JOERG

Art Unit

2162

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/10/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5,7-13,15,16,18-22,34,36 and 38.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20050318.
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
JEAN M. CORRIELLUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to Amendment filed on 10 February 2005.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Darleen J. Stockley on 18 March 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Please cancel claims 6, 17 and 39-41.**

**Please replace claims 1, 7-9, 12, 18-20, 34, 36 and 38 as follow:**

Claim 1. Method for querying a database with database contents stored in a computer readable medium with a database structure comprising:

placing a query in a query structure that differs from the database structure,

wherein the query structure and the database structure are derived from a standard structure by using a reference logic,

wherein the standard structure is described by standard descriptors,

Art Unit: 2162

wherein the query structure and the database structure are described by at least one of the standard descriptors and special descriptors, and

wherein the special descriptors and the content of the special descriptors are derived from at least one of the standard descriptors by using the reference logic,

transmitting the query to the database;

making the reference logic available to the database by at least one of:

transmitting at least part of the reference logic together with the query; and or

the reference logic being at least partially present in the database,

~~generating a query result for a standard descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown standard descriptor and a special descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic, or~~

~~generating a query result for a special descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown special descriptor and the standard descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic.~~

if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or

if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic,

wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine

Art Unit: 2162

whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic.

Claim 7. Method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the computation logic is stored in the database.

Claim 8. Method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein, for the special descriptors of the database structure that are dissimilar to the special descriptors of the query structure for which no computation logic is present, a review is made to determine whether a reference logic to standard descriptors is at least partially present in the database.

Claim 9. Method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein, for the special descriptors of the database structure that are dissimilar to the special descriptors of the query structure for which no computation logic and/or no reference logic is present, a review is made to determine whether the reference logic was transmitted together with the query.

Claim 12. Computer readable media embodying a database structure to execute a method comprising:

placing a query in a query structure that differs from the database structure,

wherein the query structure and the database structure are derived from a standard structure by using a reference logic,

Art Unit: 2162

wherein the standard structure is described by standard descriptors,  
wherein the query structure and the database structure are described by at least one of the standard descriptors and special descriptors, and  
wherein the special descriptors and the content of the special descriptors are derived from at least one of the standard descriptors by using the reference logic,  
transmitting the query to the database;  
making the reference logic available to the database by at least one of:  
transmitting at least part of the reference logic together with the query; ~~and or~~  
the reference logic being at least partially present in the database,  
~~generating a query result for a standard descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown standard descriptor and a special descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic, or~~  
~~generating a query result for a special descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown special descriptor and the standard descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic.~~  
if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or  
if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic,

Art Unit: 2162

wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic.

Claim 18. Computer readable media as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the computation logic is stored in the database.

Claim 19. Computer readable media as claimed in Claim 18, wherein, for the special descriptors of the database structure that are dissimilar to the special descriptors of the query structure for which no computation logic is present, a review is made to determine whether a reference logic to standard descriptors is at least partially present in the database.

Claim 20. Computer readable media as claimed in Claim 18, wherein, for the special descriptors of the database structure that are dissimilar to the special descriptors of the query structure for which no computation logic and/or no reference logic is present, a review is made to determine whether the reference logic was transmitted together with the query.

Claim 34. A method of querying a plurality of databases stored in computer readable media, comprising:

submitting a query in an original query structure to a plurality of databases; and

Art Unit: 2162

separately revising the original query structure at each of the databases, to produce query structures searchable within the respective databases,

wherein the original query structure is revised in a decentralized fashion, without middleware,

wherein the query structure and the database structure are derived from a standard structure by using a reference logic,

wherein the standard structure is described by standard descriptors,

wherein the query structure and the database structure are described by at least one of the standard descriptors and special descriptors, and

wherein the special descriptors and the content of the special descriptors are derived from at least one of the standard descriptors by using the reference logic,

transmitting the query to the database;

making the reference logic available to the database by at least one of:

transmitting at least part of the reference logic together with the query; and or

the reference logic being at least partially present in the database,

~~generating a query result for a standard descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown standard descriptor and a special descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic, or generating a query result for a special descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown special descriptor and the standard descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic.~~

Art Unit: 2162

if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or

if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic,

wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic.

Claim 36. A method of querying a plurality of databases stored in computer readable media, comprising:

submitting a query to a plurality of databases, the query containing information fields not contained in all of the databases; and

separately searching for the query at the plurality of databases, each database using a reference logic at the database to infer a relationship between fields in the database and fields in the query not contained in the database,

wherein each database infers the relationship in a decentralized fashion, without middleware,



Art Unit: 2162

wherein structure of the query and structure of the database are derived from a standard structure by using a reference logic,

wherein the standard structure is described by standard descriptors,

wherein the structure of the query and the structure of the database are described by at least one of the standard descriptors and special descriptors, and

wherein the special descriptors and the content of the special descriptors are derived from at least one of the standard descriptors by using the reference logic,

transmitting the query to the database;

making the reference logic available to the database by at least one of:

transmitting at least part of the reference logic together with the query; ~~and~~ or

the reference logic being at least partially present in the database,

~~generating a query result for a standard descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown standard descriptor and a special descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic, or~~

~~generating a query result for a special descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown special descriptor and the standard descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic.~~

if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or

if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic,

wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic.

Claim 38. A method of querying a plurality of databases stored in computer readable media, comprising:

submitting a query in an original query structure to a plurality of databases; and

separately revising the original query structure at each of the databases, independently of middleware, to produce query structures searchable within the respective databases,

wherein the query structure and the database structure are derived from a standard structure by using a reference logic,

wherein the standard structure is described by standard descriptors,

wherein the query structure and the database structure are described by at least one of the standard descriptors and special descriptors, and

wherein the special descriptors and the content of the special descriptors are derived from at least one of the standard descriptors by using the reference logic,

transmitting the query to the database;

Art Unit: 2162

making the reference logic available to the database by at least one of:

transmitting at least part of the reference logic together with the query; ~~and~~ or

the reference logic being at least partially present in the database,

~~generating a query result for a standard descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown standard~~

~~descriptor and a special descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic, or~~

~~generating a query result for a special descriptor of the query structure that is unknown to the database structure by using the reference logic associated with the unknown special descriptor and the standard descriptor of the database that is associated with the reference logic.~~

if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or

if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic,

wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 34, 36 and 38 are allowed over prior art that made of record.

***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention relates to a method for querying a database with database contents that have a database structure. The query is made in a query structure, which differs from the database structure in that the query structure and the database structure reference a standard structure, and the reference logic is not stored in a middleware, it is at least partially transmitted together with the query and/or is at least partially present in the database.

Machihara et al. (US 6,233,578 B1) teach retrieval of meta-information using middleware prior to carrying out a desired user information retrieval. The information retrieved by the middleware is stored in the information resource dictionary (IRD). The operation of the information retrieval system includes using the IRD, and further, use of the middleware section, so that the target database system 180 is accessed. Machihara teaches away from the present invention because the present invention does not utilize middle between the user and the database. The reference logic is at least partially transmitted together with the query and/or is at least partially present in the database.

Kappenberger et al. (US 6,345,269 B1) teach using an interpreter which receives the query from the user and performs as middleware between the user and the database. The present invention does not utilize middleware.

Brown et al. (US 6,397,225 B1) does not disclose the reference logic to evaluate unknown standard/special descriptors by known special/standard descriptors. Brown simply states to construct a database command in the case where no corresponding column name for a program variable name can be found. However, Brown fails to disclose that both a reference logic is used for both referencing the descriptor to the associated unknown descriptor and the content transformation.

Lennon (Pub. No.: US 2003/0208473 A1) does not disclose if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic.

The prior art of record alone or in combination does not fairly teach or suggest “the special descriptors and the content of the special descriptors are derived from at least one of the standard descriptors by using the reference logic, transmitting the query to the database; making the reference logic available to the database by at least one of: transmitting at least part of the reference logic together with the query; or the reference logic being at least partially present in

Art Unit: 2162

the database, if the standard descriptors of the query structure and the standard descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a special descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the standard descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, or if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, a standard descriptor of the database structure can be inferred from the special descriptor of the query structure by means of the reference logic, wherein if the special descriptors of the query structure and the special descriptors of the database structure are dissimilar, dissimilar special descriptors are reviewed to determine whether a computation logic is present in the database, so that a respective special descriptor of the database structure can be computed directly from the corresponding special descriptor of the query structure by means of the computation logic” in claim 1, 12, 34, 36 and 38, and conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent and independent claims. Therefore, all pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 34, 36 and 38 is hereby allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Art Unit: 2162


***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chongshan Chen whose telephone number is (571)272-4031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (571)272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chongshan Chen  
March 18, 2005

  
JEAN M. CORRIELLUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER